

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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ALEJANDRO ALBERTO ETCHETO, et al.,	:	
	:	08 Civ. 4902 (TPG)
Plaintiffs,	:	
	:	
-against-	:	<b><u>ANSWER</u></b>
	:	
THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA,	:	
	:	
Defendant.	:	
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Defendant the Republic of Argentina (the “Republic”), as and for its answer to the Complaint, dated May 27, 2008 (the “Complaint”), respectfully states as follows:

1. The Republic lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 1 of the Complaint, except admits that it entered into a Fiscal Agency Agreement dated October 19, 1994 (the “1994 FAA”), and refers to the 1994 FAA for its true and correct contents. The Republic admits that it issued a bond having ISIN US040114GH79.

2. The Republic lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 2 of the Complaint, except admits that it entered into the USD Discount Bond and Par Bond Fiscal Agency Agreement dated April 7, 1993 (the “1993 DPB FAA”), and refers to the 1993 DPB FAA for its true and correct contents. The Republic admits that it issued bonds having ISINs XS0043118172 and XS0043119147.

3. Paragraph 3 of the Complaint constitutes a conclusion of law as to which no responsive pleading is required. The Republic otherwise admits that it is a foreign state as defined in 28 U.S.C. § 1603(a).

4. Paragraph 4 of the Complaint constitutes a conclusion of law as to which no responsive pleading is required.

5. Paragraph 5 of the Complaint constitutes a conclusion of law as to which no responsive pleading is required.

6. In response to Paragraph 6 of the Complaint, the Republic repeats and realleges each and every response to Paragraphs 1 and 3-5 of the Complaint.

7. The Republic lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 7 of the Complaint.

8. Paragraph 8 of the Complaint purports to characterize the contents of a written document, which document speaks for itself. The Republic denies such characterizations inconsistent with the contents of the referenced document and refers to the document cited in Paragraph 8 of the Complaint for its true and correct contents.

9. Paragraph 9 of the Complaint purports to characterize the contents of a written document, which document speaks for itself. The Republic denies such characterizations inconsistent with the contents of the referenced document and refers to the document cited in Paragraph 9 of the Complaint for its true and correct contents.

10. Paragraph 10 of the Complaint purports to characterize the contents of a written document, which document speaks for itself. The Republic denies such characterizations inconsistent with the contents of the referenced document and refers to the document cited in Paragraph 10 of the Complaint for its true and correct contents. The Republic otherwise lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 10 of the Complaint.

11. The Republic denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 11 of the Complaint.

12. Paragraph 12 of the Complaint constitutes a conclusion of law as to which no responsive pleading is required. The Republic otherwise denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 12 of the Complaint.

13. The Republic lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 13 of the Complaint. Paragraph 13 of the Complaint otherwise purports to characterize the contents of written documents, which documents speak for themselves. The Republic denies such characterizations inconsistent with the contents of the referenced documents and refers to the documents cited in Paragraph 13 of the Complaint for their true and correct contents.

14. The Republic lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 14 of the Complaint, except admits that since December 2001 it has not paid interest or principal on nonperforming debt.

15. Paragraph 15 of the Complaint constitutes a conclusion of law as to which no responsive pleading is required. The Republic otherwise denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 15 of the Complaint.

16. In response to Paragraph 16 of the Complaint, the Republic repeats and realleges each and every response to Paragraphs 2-5 of the Complaint.

17. The Republic lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 17 of the Complaint.

18. Paragraph 18 of the Complaint purports to characterize the contents of a written document, which document speaks for itself. The Republic denies such characterizations inconsistent with the contents of the referenced document and refers to the document cited in Paragraph 18 of the Complaint for its true and correct contents.

19. Paragraph 19 of the Complaint purports to characterize the contents of a written document, which document speaks for itself. The Republic denies such characterizations inconsistent with the contents of the referenced document and refers to the document cited in Paragraph 19 of the Complaint for its true and correct contents.

20. Paragraph 20 of the Complaint purports to characterize the contents of a written document, which document speaks for itself. The Republic denies such characterizations inconsistent with the contents of the referenced document and refers to the document cited in Paragraph 20 of the Complaint for its true and correct contents. The Republic otherwise lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 20 of the Complaint.

21. The Republic denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 21 of the Complaint.

22. The Republic lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 22 of the Complaint, except admits that since December 2001 it has not paid interest or principal on nonperforming debt.

23. The Republic lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of Paragraph 23 of the Complaint. Paragraph 23 of the Complaint otherwise purports to characterize the contents of written documents, which documents speak for themselves. The Republic denies such characterizations inconsistent with the contents of the referenced documents and refers to the documents cited in Paragraph 23 of the Complaint for their true and correct contents.

24. Paragraph 24 of the Complaint constitutes a conclusion of law as to which no responsive pleading is required. The Republic otherwise denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 24 of the Complaint.

25. Paragraph 25 of the Complaint constitutes a conclusion of law as to which no responsive pleading is required. The Republic otherwise denies the allegations contained in Paragraph 25 of the Complaint.

**First Affirmative Defense**

26. The Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted.

**Second Affirmative Defense<sup>1</sup>**

27. Plaintiffs' claims are barred by the act of state doctrine.

**Third Affirmative Defense**

28. To the extent plaintiffs are not acting in good faith in commencing and prosecuting this action, plaintiffs are barred from enforcing any rights they may otherwise have.

**Fourth Affirmative Defense**

29. Plaintiffs' claims are barred by the doctrine of unclean hands.

**Fifth Affirmative Defense**

30. Plaintiffs' claims are barred by the doctrine of abuse of rights.

**Sixth Affirmative Defense**

31. Plaintiffs' claims are barred by N.Y. Judiciary Law Section 489.

**Seventh Affirmative Defense**

32. Plaintiffs' interest claims are barred in whole or in part by the applicable statute of limitations/prescription period.

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<sup>1</sup> The Republic recognizes that the Court has addressed the Second and Fifth Affirmative Defenses listed herein. See Lightwater Corp. Ltd. v. Republic of Argentina, No. 02 Civ. 3804 (TPG), 2003 WL 1878420, at \*5 (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 14, 2003). The Republic pleads these Affirmative Defenses here to preserve them for potential appellate review. In connection with the Sixth Affirmative Defense facts may exist in the present case that were not before the Court in the cases covered by the Lightwater and EM Ltd. v. Argentina, No. 03 Civ. 2508 (TPG), 2003 WL 22120745 (S.D.N.Y. Sept. 12, 2003) (amended Sept. 16, 2003) Orders.

**Eighth Affirmative Defense**

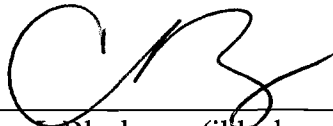
33. Plaintiffs lack standing and/or capacity to sue, because they are not holders of bonds within the meaning of the 1994 FAA or the 1993 DPB FAA.

WHEREFORE, the Republic respectfully requests that the Court enter an order:

- (a) dismissing plaintiffs' claims with prejudice;
- (b) awarding the Republic costs and disbursements, including reasonable attorneys' fees; and
- (c) granting the Republic such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York  
July 28, 2008

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